Cooperation in science and technology with Russia

3518. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Russia have agreed to step up their decade old cooperation in Science and Technology in some new areas at a recently held Eighth Session in Moscow of the Joint Council for co-ordination and implementation of the Integrated Long Term Programme (ILTP) in Science and Technology;

(b) whether Indian Government have set up any technology development fund which could be used for bringing Russian technologies to the Indian market; and

(c) the details of the present Joint Research Projects (area-wise) covered by ILTP and the Russian Academy of Sciences and whether exploratory visits from each country are also undertaken?

THE MINISTER OF SCEINCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) India and Russia have agreed to step up their cooperation in Science & Technology and three new areas of co-operation, namely, Ocean Technology, Radio Electronics and Biomedical Scienes have been proposed during the recently hel Eighth session of Indo-Russian Joint Council for co-ordination and implementation of Integrated Long Term Programme of Cooperation in Science & Technology between India and Russia (ILTP).

(b) The fund for Technology Development and Application administered by the Technology Development Board provides financial assistance for adapting imported technologies, including those of Russian origin, for wider applications.

(c) Exploratory visits from each country are undertaken to concretise projects of mutual interest. 93 joint projects have been approved for continuation/inclusion in ILTP during the Eighth session of Joint Council. These projects are in the areas of Biotechnology and Immunology; Material Science and Technology (Engineering Materials); Materials and Technology for Electronics; Laser Science & Technology; Catalysis; Space Science & Technology; physics, Technology and Applications of Accelerator; Water Technology; Computer & Electronics; Mathematics; Theoretical and Applied mechanics; Earth Sciences; Radionphysics and Astrophysics; Ecology & Environment; Chemical Sciences; Biology.

Measures to develop information technology sector

3519. SHRI K.M. SAIFULAH: Will the Miniser of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a declining growth rate in the information technology market;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for slow growth rate; and

(c) the measures proposed to develop the information technology sector?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Meteorological office at Kandla Port

3520. SHRI O.P. KOHLI: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Meteorological office at the Kandla Port which experienced a devastating cyclone recently had no telephone connection and the only means of giving advance warning of impending storm was telegram which took about three hours to reach there;

(b) if so, the action taken against the officials responsible for such a serious dereliction of duty; and

(c) whether at least now it has been ensured that all such vulnerable places do have quicker means of communications in the interest of life and property of the people?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) to (c) India Meteorological Department (IMD) has no Meteorological Office at Kandal Port. A small meteorological section, however, functions under the Marine Department of Kandla Port Trust for recording basic meteorological observations.

(IMD's Cyclone Warning Centre for the maritime state of Gujarat is located at Ahmedabad and it issues cyclone warning messages including warnings to ports. These warnings were disseminated through various modes like Doordarshan/ All India Radio/Print Media/Fax/Telex/ Telephone/Police Wireless and INSAT based Cyclone Warning and Dissemination System (CWDS). With reference to the recent cyclone the first cyclone warning message was issued by IMD on 8th June, 1998 at 1200 hrs. (noon) while the cyclone crossed Kandla Port in the afternoon of 9th June, 1998.

12.00 Noon

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

I. **Notification of Ministry of Food and Consumer Affairs.**

I. **Report and accounts (1996-97) of Hindustan Organic Chemicals Ltd., Raigad and Hindustan Insecticides Ltd., New Delhi**

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA) Sir, I lay on the Table:—

(i) (a) A copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Food and Consumer Affairs Notification G.S.R. No. 648(E), dated the 12th November, 1997, publishing the Food Corporations (Amendment) Rules, 1997 under sub-section (3) of section 44 of the Food Corporations Act, 1964. (Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-1304/98)

(b) A copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Food and Consumer Affairs Notification No. E.P.I. (3)/ 98, dated the 29th May, 1998, publishing the Food Corporation of India (Staff) (First Amendment) Regulations, 1998 under sub-section (5) of section 45 of the Food Corporations Act, 1964. [Placed in Library *See* NO. Lt-1305/ 98].

II. (1) A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers, under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:—

(i) (a) Thirty-sixth Annual Report and Accounts of the Hindustan Organic Chemical Limited, Raigad, Maharashtra for the year 1996-97, together with the Auditors' Report on the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon.

(b) Review by Government on the working of the above Company. [Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 1045/ 98]

(ii) (a) Forty-third Annual Report and Accounts of the Hindustan Insecticides Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1996-97, together with the Auditors' Report on the Accounts and the comments